



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

SEPTEMBER 8, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Audio comments from U.S. Attorney Todd Graves will be available in MP3 format,
which may be downloaded from the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow*

FORMER BETHANY MAYOR, TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING CHILD PORN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a New Hampton, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to producing child pornography.

Richard P. Warner, 52, of New Hampton, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to charges contained in an April 6, 2004, federal indictment. **Warner**, the former city councilman and mayor of Bethany, Mo., has worked as a teacher in several school districts.

“Tragically, **Warner** could be a poster child for pedophilia,” Graves said. “He spent all of his time trying to get close to children – working as a classroom teacher, serving as a foster parent, volunteering to drive the bus and lead youth activities in his church, and getting involved with Boy Scouts. He needs to be locked safely away from our community, and we intend to seek the harshest possible prison sentence.”

Warner admitted that he used a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing child pornography between Sept. 16, 2002, and Oct. 4, 2002. **Warner** also admitted that he transported child pornography in interstate commerce using his computer on Aug. 27, 2002.

By pleading guilty today, **Warner** agreed to forfeit a Seagate computer hard drive that was used to commit those offenses.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Harrison County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Missouri State Technical Assistance Team.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow